

Blissymbolics
Communication
Foundation

✦ gathering
✦ dissemination
⊗ blissymbolics
x much, many

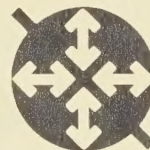
862 Eglinton Avenue E.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4G 2L1
(416) 425-7835

OCTOBER 1977

VOLUME III NUMBER 1



BULLETIN



WORKSHOPS

Summer of 1977

Ah! Those lazy, lazy days of summer. Well, there weren't many of those days this summer at BCF.

We conducted our own 8-day course in July. The first five days were an Elementary Workshop and the last three days were a Special Interest Session with the focus on Symbols and the Retarded.

However, Toronto was not the only active place this summer. Elementary Workshops were also held in Atlanta, Georgia; Doylestown, Pennsylvania; Ottawa, Ontario; Oxford, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Buffalo and Valhalla, New York. These workshops were conducted largely by Presentors from our recently formed Presentors' Pool.

* * * * *

Fall of 1977

The fall season promises to be as busy as the summer. The following Elementary Workshops have been scheduled.

October 19 - October 22

Alberta Children's Hospital
1820 Richmond Road S.W.
Calgary, Alberta. T2T 5C7

Contact: Dale Sutherland

November 14 - November 18

Blissymbolics Communication Foundation.
862 Eglinton Ave, East.
Toronto, Ontario. M4G 2L1

Contact: Shirley White
Phone Number: 416-425-7835

November 29 - December 2

Illinois Masonic Medical Center.
863 Wellington Ave,
Chicago, Ill. 60657

Contact: Pat Hucker, Coordinator of
Speech and Hearing.
Phone Number: 312-525-2300

November 29 - December 2

Committee for the Promotion of
Blissymbolics in Nova Scotia.
R R # 1
Boutiliers Point,
Halifax Co, Nova Scotia. BOJ 1G0

Contact: Barbara Cox
Phone Number: 902-826-7350

Tentative Elementary Workshop dates
for early 1978.

January 31 - February 3,
• Vancouver, B.C.

January or February
• St. Paul, Minnesota.

March 6 - 10
• Toronto, Ontario

April
• Sarnia, Ontario

May 1 - 4
• Regina, Sask.

The schedule for 1978 is being worked
out now. For up-to-date information,
please contact Shirley White.

Special Interest Workshops

As mentioned previously, we held our
first Special Interest Workshop this
summer, with the theme centering on
'Symbols and the Retarded'.

Proceedings will be available when
transcription and editing is completed.
Those who attended the Workshop will
receive a copy. Anyone else who
would like copies should write to
Mrs. Gale Goundry at BCF. There
will be a nominal charge for those
who did not attend.

It is our intention to hold more
Special Interest Sessions. One is
planned for March 13 - 15. The focus
will be 'Symbols and the Adult'.
The only prerequisite for attendance
is an accredited Elementary Workshop.
Applications will be forwarded later
this year. Anyone interested in
attending should write requesting to
be added to our Special Interest
Workshop Mailing list.

* * * * *

We are pleased to report that Shirley
White, Workshop and Training
Co-ordinator is now back at the BCF
Office after being absent for some
weeks because of illness.

* * * * *

Presentors' Pool

Our policies regarding the Presentors'
Pool of qualified workshop instructors
have recently been expanded and
clarified. There will now be three
levels of Presentors, each with its
own responsibilities and requirements.
Those who wish to apply for membership
in the pool must meet the following
prerequisites.

- Accreditation from both elementary
and advanced workshops.
- Preferably two years experience
with a symbol programme.
- Experience and demonstrated ability
in presenting Blissymbolics to an
audience.

Anyone wishing to apply should contact
Shirley White.

At the Advanced Workshop, being held
October 24th - 26th 1977, emphasis
will be given to a detailed study of
the system, with attention being
placed on new symbols, syntax,
strategies, and language development.
This Workshop's primary focus is the
preparation of Workshop Presentors
through a study of the symbol system
by Workshop presentors-in-training.
Enrollment will be restricted to
Workshop Presenter applicants and a
limited number of experienced instruct-
ors. The next Advanced Workshop will
be held April 3 - 5, 1978, immediately
prior to Workshop Presenter Training,
6 - 7.

Expansion of Workshop Programme

We need your help in establishing a
full schedule of Workshops for 1978,
Elementary and Special. Please write
or telephone to let us know as soon
as possible when you are thinking of
holding your Workshop.

We would also like to know of
possibilities for holding Workshops
in new locations as well as subjects
for Special Interest Workshops, so
that we can follow up your ideas.
Remember, we need your help and
support in expanding our Workshop
Programme.

RESOURCE CENTRES

As the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation enters its third year we wish to thank our Resource Centre Directors for their support, their counsel, their expertise and enthusiasm. Their contribution to the development of the symbol system and to the growth of the Foundation is immeasurable.



THANK YOU!

MERCI!

CURRENT BLISSYMBOLIC COMMUNICATION
FOUNDATION RESOURCE CENTRES

CANADA

CALGARY

Mrs. Dale Sutherland
Resource Centre Director
Speech and Hearing Department
Alberta Children's Hospital
1820 Richmond Road S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5C7

OTTAWA

Mrs. Anne Warrick
Resource Centre Director
Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment
Centre
P O Box 8469
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9

MONTREAL

Mrs. Keila Waksvik
Resource Centre Director
Occupational Therapy Department
MacKay Centre
3500 Decarie Blvd.
Montreal, Quebec H4A 3J5

TORONTO

Mr. Maurice Izzard
Principal
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre
School
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8

SARNIA

Mrs. Elaine Jones
Resource Centre Director
Sarnia & District Crippled Children's
Centre
1240 Murphy Road
Sarnia, Ontario N7S 2Y6

VANCOUVER

Ms. Margaret McCuaig
Resource Centre Director
Sunny Hill Hospital for Children
2755 East 21st Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2W3

OVERSEAS

UNITED KINGDOM

Ms. Ena Davies
National Advisor, Blissymbolics
Communication Resource Centre
c/o Institute of Higher Education
Western Avenue
Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales CF5 2YB

SWEDEN

Annagreta Malmstrom-Groth
Chairman, Steering Committee for the
Application of Blissymbolics
Ped. Habil, Ekhaga 58255
Linkoping, Sweden.

* * * * *

Interest in Blissymbolics continues to grow in Canada, the United States and internationally. In North America, sites for Resource Centres will continue to be geographically selected to serve as liaison between B.C.F., other Resource Centres, and local programmes. The major responsibilities of Resource Centres are to present Elementary Workshops; to provide professional follow-up and consultation; to provide information about local programmes where visitors can see symbol users; to offer public information and community orientation. Resource Centres will house loan materials; video tapes, films and slides, as support for accomplishing these objectives.

Coordinating Committees focusing the interests of different disciplines, using Blissymbolics with different populations, have formed in a number of areas. This coordination of interests creates a healthy base upon which to establish Resource Centres.

In other areas, symbol development on a local level has taken the form of "Blissymbolic Community Service" where instructors have felt the need to offer consultant services, orientation, and in-service training, without assuming workshop instruction responsibility.

There are many active Blissymbolics programmes around the world reflecting the creativity and enthusiasm of instructors, administrators, volunteers, parents, and symbol users. We are proposing to offer a new form of BCF recognition which would be BCF Affiliate. This alternative liaison with BCF would supplement our Resource Centre structure and could lead to Resource Centre status should the interest and need develop.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Internship Programme of the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation has been developed to provide instructor training and involvement in programmes applying Blissymbols in various ways. It is primarily directed towards professionals from countries outside North America who will be assuming responsibility for the initial development of Blissymbol communication in their country or region. The programme will be held twice a year, and enrolment will be limited.

The programme will run for at least one month and during this time, the following will be included:

- . Elementary Symbol Workshop
- . Advanced Symbol Workshop
- . Visits to a variety of programmes using Blissymbols
- . Discussion groups and opportunities to view video tapes
- . There will be some required reading and written assignments given during the course of the internship

Fees for the Fall 1977 Internship programme will be \$475.00. This includes the cost of the two workshops and materials required for them. All travel, accommodation arrangements and expenses are the responsibility of the intern; also, a recommendation from the participant's administrator must accompany an application.

The dates of the Fall Internship Programme will be October 17th - November 17th, 1977.

The dates of the Spring, 1978 Internship Programme will tentatively be March 3rd - April 7th.

For further information and application forms, contact:

Mrs. Ann Kennedy
Internship Co-ordinator, BCF

LOAN MATERIALS

There are audio visual loan materials available from the BCF. Some details on the contents are given for your information:-

VIDEO TAPES - \$10 Service Charge

Sensory City - 40 minutes

- . General outline of three levels of symbol classrooms at OCCC
- . Kindergarten, severely involved, advanced
- . Teacher explanation of programme and classroom scenes.

Parent Involvement - 30 minutes

- . Ruth Harrington relating family experiences with a symbol user
- . How it has affected their family and circle of friends.

Individual Children - 20 minutes

- . One child at elementary level, one at fluent level and one severely involved child
- . Classroom - news - structuring - concept of opposite
- . Short segment on a reading lesson

Joseph Kaebler School - 50 minutes

- . Integration of symbol user into regular school system
- . Question and answer session by principal and teacher re problems they faced, followed by scenes of child in school setting.

FILMS - \$15 Service Charge

MacKay Centre, Montreal - 10 minutes

- . 16 mm colour film
- . Interview with Shirley McNaughton, short sequence of Mr. Bliss from "Mr. Symbol Man", scenes of child in class at MacKay and at home, interview with his teacher and parents.

CASSETTE TAPE - \$3 Service Charge

- . Sound from "Parent Involvement" videotape.

The National Film Board slide series "Say it with Symbols" should be available for rental by the end of November. The cost is \$15.00

As loan items are in short supply materials must be returned one week after the viewing date. The service charge will be increased by 50% for each day that materials are overdue. All bookings should be directed to the Office Manager at BCF.

STUDENT KITS

Student Information Kits are available at a cost of \$6.00 each. For further information, please contact our office.

"A MANNER OF SPEAKING"

B.C.F. has just published an informational brochure entitled "A Manner of Speaking". The booklet provides a history of our organization, the scope of our activities, and the nature and application of the symbol system itself. A copy of the publication can be obtained for a nominal mailing and handling charge (50¢) by contacting B.C.F.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

Anyone who wishes to have an article concerning Blissymbolics published is asked to first submit that article to the BCF to ensure that the standardized form of the symbols appears. Please send your manuscript to Jinny Storr at the BCF.

C.R.C.D. DIGEST

An article on Blissymbolics is to appear in the next edition of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled; Digest.

"THE MAGIC LANGUAGE OF CHARLES BLISS"

In the September issue of the Reader's Digest there is a five page article on the story of Charles Bliss and his life long ambition to establish a world-wide symbol language.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS

BLISSCOM - being developed by TRACE Centre.

Work continues on the vocabulary for the Blisscom. Following study and suggestions in July by the Programme Advisory Committee, Peter Reich has made revisions and additions to the Vocabulary. The next step is the creation of needed new symbols during C.K. Bliss' visit to Toronto and the completion of the photographic work for the display. Thanks to continuing effort on the part of Peter Reich and David Kelso of TRACE, the Blisscom will be displaying 840 symbols, all of which can be printed with either one or two movements. Field testing of the prototype Blisscom during the 1977-78 school year will be carried out in order to evaluate the feasibility of producing Blisscom for sale.

DISPLAYS

Exploration of the best method for producing a 512 Vocabulary, Symbol Stamps, and blank grids continues. It is hoped that information regarding availability will be distributed before the next Bulletin.

N.F.B. SLIDE SERIES

Delay in distribution of the N.F.B. Slide Series was necessary to ensure corrections being made to some of the symbols, after improvement of the "combine" symbol, and revisions requested by C. K. Bliss. Work is underway by Brian Bobbie and a new target date of distribution by November 1 has been set. We regret this delay, but it was important to correct symbol forms prior to the slides being circulated.

HANDBOOK

The Handbook for Instructors, Users, Parents and Administrators has been completed and submitted to the Ministry of Education, Ontario, as a

product of the project entitled "The Formative Evaluation of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre Symbol Communication Programme", contracted by the Ministry of Education, Ontario. Efforts are being directed toward acquiring funds for printing the Handbook.

DICTIONARY -

REPORT FROM BARBARA HEHENER.

As a result of opinions expressed at the Advisory Committee Meeting in July, the Dictionary Classification system is now being modified. It is hoped that a new simpler 'Symbol to Word' classification system, still based upon symbol structure, will be ready this fall.

The manuscript for the 'Word to Symbol' section of the Dictionary is now being prepared, based upon the 512 vocabulary. It is supplemented by a master list of approximately 1000 high-frequency words, most of which have been rated for usefulness by the Advisory Committee and other symbol instructors.

We are now exploring the possibility of arranging the 'Word to Symbol' section by meaning categories, rather than alphabetically.

For example, all clothing words would be found together, as would all food words, and all words referring to body parts. It is felt that such an arrangement offers more scope for learning about the structure of the system than does an alphabetical classification. New sample pages for the 'Word to Symbol' section are being prepared by the Design Consultant for the Dictionary.

A number of new symbols are being developed and approved this fall. The target date for a completed draft of the Dictionary (minus final symbol artwork) is December 1977.



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October 1977

Dear Friends,

Last year a decision was taken to send the Bulletin to Associate members only. The financial burden of providing it free of charge had proven to be too great for our limited resources.

The response was good but not as good as we had hoped for. We are attributing this to two factors, (a) busy schedules and (b) a reluctance on the part of some individuals to make the commitment of Associate Membership at this time.

Hence, this complimentary issue. We are hoping that you will be able to find time now to complete the application form and send in your \$5.00. For this small sum you will receive the three (3) issues of the Bulletin and will become eligible for the privileges listed on the application. Alternately, you may subscribe only to the Bulletin. This will cost you \$4.00.

We know you realize how important it is to keep informed of the many developments associated with our expanding organization. We hope you feel it is worth the few minutes of your time necessary to complete the form of your choice and send it, along with your cheque to our office. Please do it today.

Note:

This system does not apply to the United Kingdom. Information regarding membership in the United Kingdom Bliss Centre can be obtained from that centre.

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR THE BULLETIN 1977 - 78

The Bulletin focuses on the past, present and future activities of the BCF and presents the BCF viewpoint.

FEE: \$4.00

ISSUES: Fall, Winter, Spring. (Total of 3 issues per year)

I wish to subscribe to the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation Bulletin.

Payment is attached hereto.

Name: _____

Address _____

Discipline: _____



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BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Privileges and Duties of Membership

To promote the objects of the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation throughout the world in using or teaching or assisting in the development of symbol communication.

To advise the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation individually or in meetings called for the purpose as to symbol usage and development.

To be informed by the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation of current symbol usage and events concerning symbol development.

To assist those whose own language skills are inadequate by providing a workable symbol communication system.

The undersigned herein applies to be an Associate Member of the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation and herein states agreement with the aim of working toward maintaining a standard form of Blissymbolics.

The undersigned herein acknowledges application for Associate Membership in the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation and acknowledges the authority of the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation to set standards for the usage and form of symbol communication and agrees to follow its directions regarding the same, as they may from time to time be issued.

NAME: _____

Signed: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Date: _____

Please enclose \$5.00 fee and return to:

Blissymbolics Communication Foundation
862 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario M4G 2L1

COULD YOU PLEASE ASSIST US WITH UP-DATING OUR RECORDS BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING FORM. PLEASE RETURN WITH ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM. IF APPROPRIATE, INDICATE MORE THAN ONE CHOICE.

A) I am applying Blissymbols primarily for the following purpose:

- _____ (1) Communication
- _____ (2) Language Development
- _____ (3) Cognitive development
- _____ (4) Development of reading skills
- _____ (5) International communication
- _____ (6) Other, please specify
- _____

B) I am working in the application of symbols with:

- _____ (1) The physically-handicapped population
- _____ (2) The mentally retarded population
- _____ (3) The multiply-handicapped population
- _____ (4) The deaf population
- _____ (5) The aphasic population
- _____ (6) The autistic population
- _____ (7) The blind population
- _____ (8) Stroke patients
- _____ (9) Population with delayed language development
- _____ (10) The normal population
- _____ (11) Other, please specify
- _____

C) My work is mainly with:

- _____ (1) Preschoolers
- _____ (2) Children ages (5-12)
- _____ (3) Adolescents (13-21)
- _____ (4) Adults

- D) (1) I am currently working with symbol-users.
- (2) I expect to be working with a total of symbol-users in the future.
- (3) There are symbol-users I have worked with in the past who are now discontinued.

NAME

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

NEW SYMBOLS

Since its first practical use at the O.C.C.C. in 1971 Blissymbolics has become a living language for an ever growing number of non-speaking children and adults across the world. In the intervening years it has moved out from between the covers of Mr. Bliss' monumental Semantography into homes, classrooms and all the many places where "symbol-speakers" find themselves.

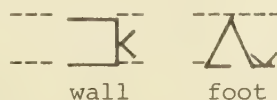
Like all living languages Blissymbolics must evolve to meet the requirements of the user. As part of the process, Mr. Bliss continues to direct his attention to refining both individual symbols and principles of symbol usage. As well, we ask the help of symbol users and instructors. Please send us the fruits of your experience: your suggestions for new symbol expressions, your comments on present principles of symbol usage, and the problems you have encountered as you use the system.

In order to fulfill its commitment to standardize Blissymbolics as it spreads in the public domain, Dr. Harry Silverman, arbiter in the BCF legal agreement with Charles K. Bliss, will consider your suggestions together with the recommendations of Charles K. Bliss.

New symbols, symbol changes and symbol principles arrived at, through Dr. Silverman's arbitration, will be printed in future issues of the Bulletin and will be contained in the Dictionary currently being developed.

Recent changes approved by Dr. Silverman are:-

1. Terminology: the arrowhead in symbols such as -



wall foot

is to be called the pointer, rather than the location indicator, (The pointer is always to be represented by a right 'angle).

2. Revised Symbols

New	Obsolete
(to) cook	cook
(to) cry	cry
goodbye	
hello	hello/goodbye
music	music
proud	proud
soft	soft

3. Revised Wording

	NOT	
opposite meaning		opposite
For example:		
	is opposite in	
hot	meaning to	cold

The symbol does not mean opposite as used in the sentence, "The boy sat opposite the girl."

* * * * *

C. K. BLISS

Charles K. Bliss is making two visits to Toronto this year. He came in June and participated in the Ottawa Conference on Technical Aids, organized by the National Research Council. Following this, Mr. Bliss worked with B.C.F. staff members in Toronto, offering many suggestions regarding the National Film Board Slide Series and discussing new symbols and symbols requiring revision. He returned to Australia July 7. We all felt his sorrow at the death of his brother Henry on July 24. In spite of his grief, Mr. Bliss continued to send his comments on some new symbols and on those symbols which are to appear in the forthcoming B.C.F. information brochure.

Throughout the summer, B.C.F. work has been directed toward the drawing of new master symbol cards, responding to many of the concerns of Mr. Bliss. On his return to Toronto this fall we hope to devote time to studying all the new master cards with Mr. Bliss, and we also look forward to the creation of many new symbols for inclusion in the Atkinson-funded Dictionary for symbol users.

From the new master symbol cards, symbols will be available for use in current B.C.F. projects, future publications, and future teaching aids.

* * * * *

Congratulations to Joan Hurren. She has successfully completed the written assignments for the Presentors' Pool and Internship, as well as meeting the practical requirements for Presentor 1. Joan will be receiving her well earned certificate, the first to do so under our new Presentors' policy.

* * * * *

Questionnaire Results

From the reponse to the questionnaire attached to the Associate Membership application, to date the following statistics have been produced. Blissymbols are being used as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Communication.....	215	47
Language Development....	134	30
Cognitive Development...	68	15
Development of reading skills	32	7
International communica- tion.....	5	1
Other (prisoners, research).....	5	1

<u>Population</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Physically-handicapped..	164	29
Mentally retarded.....	135	24
Multiply-handicapped....	119	21
Deaf.....	26	4.5
Aphasic.....	29	5.0
Autistic.....	15	2.5
Blind.....	5	1.0
Stroke patients.....	21	3.5
Delayed Language development.....	41	7.0
Normal.....	6	1.0
Other (clinicians, emo- tionally disturbed, etc.)	5	1.0

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Preschoolers.....	71	20
Children ages 5-12.....	160	46
Adolescents ages 13-21..	70	20
Adults.....	50	14

<u>Symbol Users</u>	<u>Number</u>
Current.....	1,167
Future.....	1,288
Discontinued.....	137

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As of September 23, 1977, there are 2,263 people on our mailing list.

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Metric Templates will be available on November 1st.

Large size \$7.00 Small size \$5.00

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THOSE IN THE
AREA OF COMMUNICATION AUGMENTATIVES:

The Fourth Annual Conference on
Systems and Devices for the Disabled,
Seattle, Washington. June 1-3 1977.

For information re purchase of
Proceedings and future conferences,
write:

Conference Chairman
C. Gerald Warren
Dept of Rehabilitation Medicine
BB - 805 HSB, RJ-30
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington. 98195

Workshop on Communication Aids for
the Non-Verbal Physically Handi-
capped sponsored by the Medical
Engineering Section, National Re-
search Council, Ottawa, Canada.

June 8-10, 1977.

For information re purchase of
Proceedings and future workshops,
write:

Peter J. Nelson
Medical Engineering Section
National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. K1A 0R8

Information Sources regarding tech-
nical aids:

TRACE Centre
922 ERB
1500 Johnson Drive
Madison, Wisc. 53706

The International Commission for
Technical Aids. Stockholm, Sweden.

For information write:

ICTA
Information Centre
S - 161
25 Bromma
Sweden.

* * * * *

Technical Aids Bulletins.

Information regarding technical aids
collected by the CRCD Engineering
Advisory Committee and included in
the Rehabilitation Digest.

For information write:

Canadian Rehabilitation Council for
the Disabled
Suite 2110
One Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
M5E 1E8

A New Association:

The International Association for
Communication Enhancement with plans
for information dissemination through
Communication Outlook.

For further information write:

Communication Outlook
Dept. of Computer Science
409 Computer Center,
Michigan State University,
East Lansing
Michigan. 48824

Recent Publications containing
Sections of references to the
application of Blissymbols.

G. C. Vanderheiden and K. Grilley
Non-Vocal Communication Techniques
and Aids for the Severely Physically
Handicapped.

University Park Press, Cahmber of
Commerce Building, Baltimore,
Maryland. 21202.

June Bigge, Teaching Individuals
with Physical and Multiple Disabilities,
Charles Merrill Publishing. Columbus,
Ohio.

Nonspeech Visual Symbol Training -
paper presented by DESMO Project,
University of Alabama in Birmingham,
at the American Assn. for Mental
Deficiency. Queries to P. Edea, M.A.
Speech Language Pathologist.

BCF Bulletin and the Newsletter.

The Bulletin is symbolized by the outward direction of the arrows in the Blissymbolic Communication Foundation logo. The main focus is on the activities of the Foundation itself and is compiled by BCF staff. On the other hand, the Newsletter is symbolized by the inward direction of the arrows in the logo. It contains a collection of articles from many settings, submitted by parents, teachers, users, and others who are involved with Blissymbols. This sharing of thoughts and experiences enables us all to get a better insight into the world of Blissymbols in everyday life.

Mrs. Barbara Rush, Newsletter Editor, would be pleased to receive your articles at:-

64 Magnolia Drive,
Hamilton, Ontario. L9C 5T2

COMPUTER ASSISTED BLISS INSTRUCTION

Work is currently progressing at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Western Ontario on a prototype programme for Computer Assisted Instruction lessons for teaching Blissymbolics. The lessons are written in a CAI language currently in use at Western. Symbols are displayed directly upon a TEKTRONIX graphics terminal along with the associated lesson text. The lessons themselves can be run on a timesharing PDP-10 system or on a dedicated microcomputer system.

The current work calls for three hours of lessons. Included will be a basic introduction to Blissymbols and the 400 Symbol Board. A lesson also gives instruction on symbol drawing techniques.

A report will be included in the next issue of the Bulletin, following completion of the initial stage of the project and a preliminary evaluation as to its effectiveness.

THE NATURE OF THINGS

"PEOPLE YOU NEVER SEE"

To be shown Wednesday,
December 14th at 8:00 p.m.
(Unless schedule is changed)
30 mins - channel 5 C.B.C.

An excellent programme portraying the cerebral palsied person's need for acceptance and involvement in society.

The first half of the programme is devoted to Kari Harrington, her life at James Robinson School and with her family. Direct attention is given to her use of Blissymbols, to her academic progress in reading, typing and spelling, and to the application of Blissymbolics with her classmates in the special education class. It is a delightful presentation of Kari which should be seen by all symbol users.

The second half of the programme focuses on the cerebral palsied adults living in MacLeod House, a Cheshire residence in Toronto. Their fight for independence and dignity is very well demonstrated.

Those wishing to purchase or rent the presentation following its showing on December 14th, 1977, should write to:

Mr. Len Chambers,
The Nature of Things,
C.B.C., 790 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario.

Congratulations to Elizabeth McCallum and her film crew for a film which challenges us all. It makes it possible for the cerebral palsied person "To Be Seen!"

* * * * *

We are delighted to announce the publication of an article by Lynda Archer, relating to system of Blissymbolics, as used by children. See Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders. Nov. 1977 Reprints available from BCF following publication. Cost \$1.00

BCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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A. Kennedy, Internship;
B. Quiggan, Administrative Assistant.

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S. White, Workshop Training Coordinator;
G. Goundrey, Administrative Assistant;
B. Kates, L. Norris, P. Parnes,
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Resource Centres:

M. Buchanan, Consultant.

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J. Storr, P. Ashmead.

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M. Schmieder, Liaison;
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T. Nguyen, Order Desk;
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